GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3871
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005
DISABLED FRIENDLY SCHOOLS
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .;Ponnuswamy Shri E.;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has a plan to make all schools disabled-friendly by 2020;

(b) if so, the details of the plan being formulated in this regard;

(c) the steps taken to strengthen the disability element in the syllabus of teacher-training courses; and

(d) the plan prepared by Government to encourage schools in Non-Governmental sector to become resource centres to assist teachers and prepare teaching material?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.FATMI)

(a) & (b) Yes. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has prepared a Comprehensive Plan of Action for Inclusive Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities (IECYD). According to this Action Plan, all the schools in the country will be made disabled friendly by 2020 and all the educational institutions including hostels, libraries, laboratories and the buildings will have barrier free access for the disabled. Special attention will be given for the availability of study material for the disabled children of various categories. The universities will be encouraged to introduce Special shuttle services for the disabled.

(c) In the teacher training courses, the teachers will be given training in inclusive education (Elementary and Secondary). Disability module will be incorporated in teachers training syllabus. Changes in pre service teaching methodologies and major reorientation of in- service training will be introduced.

(d) According to the Action Plan, it will be ensured that district level plans focus on all aspects of the education of children with special needs. Appropriate Special Schools in the Non-Governmental sector would increasingly become resource centres to assist with teacher training, and supply of training materials, and ensure retention of enrolled children with disabilities within the mainstream schools. These resource centres will support non-formal education as also home -based learning activities.